

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1 and 11 and leaves claims 2-8 and 12-20 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8 and 11-20.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, and Applicants' Japanese Representative Mr. Hiroshi Kawawo wish to thank Examiner Amrany and Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Sircus for the courtesy extended during the interview of April 11, 2007.

During such interview, the references of record were discussed particularly Oomori (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003306), Mizuno (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,891) and Penny (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0199515) were discussed. During the interview, an agreement was reached that "none of the references of record individually disclose the power converter" being provided in the canister and supplying "power to both the disk drive and converter all in the same canister".

In order to more clearly describe these features of the present invention amendments were made to the claims so that the claims now recite that the first voltage converter, being included in the housing having the SATA storage device, is coupled to the SATA storage device and the FC/SATA converter for supplying power to the SATA storage device and the FC/SATA converter. These features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims as agreed during the interview are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. Applicants submit that these features of the present invention are also not taught or suggested by said references whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other.

During the interview, other arguments were presented that none of the references of record teach or suggest a FC/SATA converter which is used to perform FC/SATA conversion when a SATA storage device is included in the canister. In response to this to argument, the Examiner referred to a teaching in Penny wherein a fibre channel system is used to interconnect each of various storage devices via a fibre channel interface.

In the Office Action the Examiner asserts that Penny teaches that SATA storage devices can be used in the system as disclosed and as such SATA storage devices can be connected to the fibre channel. However, the Examiner acknowledges that at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Penny the actual manner in which the SATA storage device is interconnected to the FC interface to be operational nor that a FC/SATA converter is provided as in the present invention as recited in the claims so that the SATA storage device can properly operate. The Examiner simply alleges that a FC/SATA converter would be inherent. However, Applicants do not agree and directed attention to the only teaching in Penny wherein it is described that "all storage devices have a fibre channel communication interface". There is no teaching whatsoever at any point in Penny that a fibre FC/SATA converter is provided as in the present invention.

Even beyond the above, there is absolutely no teaching or suggestion at any point in Penny that if such a FC/SATA converter is provided in a canister including a SATA storage device and a voltage converter that the voltage converter supplies power to both the FC/SATA converter and the SATA storage device as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

In the Office Action the Examiner refers to a teaching in Mizuno of a voltage converter allegedly provided in each of the disclosed housings. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Mizuno that the voltage converter supplies power to both the storage device and a FC/SATA converter which interfaces a SATA storage device both provided in the housing including the voltage converter as in the present invention as recited in the claims. As illustrated in Fig. 3 of Mizuno, each housing simply includes the DC/DC converter 6 and the SCSI disk. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Mizuno as per Fig. 3 thereof of a separate FC/SATA converter which interfaces to a SATA disk drive and that the DC/DC converter supplies power to both the FC/SATA converter and the SATA disk drive as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, the combination of Oomori, Mizuno and Penny fails to teach or suggest a first voltage converter, being included in the housing having the SATA storage device, is coupled to the SATA storage device and the FC/SATA converter for supplying power to the SATA storage device and the FC/SATA converter as recited in the claims.

Therefore, since the combination of Oomori, Mizuno and Penny fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, the combination does not render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1-8, 11-14 and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Oomori in view of Mizuno and Penny is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that claims 15-17 are allowed.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies of the prior art utilized in the rejection of claims 1-8, 11-14 and 18-20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-8 and 11-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-8 and 11-20 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (1309.43669X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120